GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2547
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2008
TEA PRODUCTION
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of tea produced by the tea producing States against the target fixed during each of the last three years and in the current year, till date;

(b) whether the share of Indian tea exports in the world market has declined during the above period;

(c) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up factories on cooperative basis for small tea growers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps taken by the Government to increase the tea production, boosting the export of tea and provide assistance to the small tea growers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) Targets have not been fixed for production of tea state-wise.The quantity of tea produced by the tea producing states during last three years is given in the annexure.

(b) & (c) The export share of Indian tea in World market has been around 12-13% for the last few years. During 2006 the export share of Indian Tea was 13.76%. However, during the year 2007 the share of Indian exports in the world market has declined to 10.18% which is mainly due to increase in production of tea in Kenya, decline in the Kenyan tea prices at the Mombassa auction and appreciation of Indian rupee against dollar.

(d) to (f) : Presently fifteen Co-operative tea factories are functioning in Nilgiri area of Tamil Nadu for the benefit of the small tea growers. More than 500 private bought leaf factories are functioning in various tea growing regions and the processing capacity of these factories is enough to cater to the present demand. Small Tea Growers/their associations are however availing the financial assistance under various plan schemes being administered by the Tea Board for the purpose.